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Claims

A method for antigen independent activation of T cells comprising contacting T cells with a combination of cytokines.

The method of claim 1, wherein the T cells are contacted with at least two of the following:

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i) interleuking

- ii) interleukin-65 and
- iii) tumour necrosis factor

or functionally equivalent fragments thereof.

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The method of claim 1 or 2; wherein the T cells are naive T cells and/or memory resting T cells.

The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the T cells are naive CD45RA cells and/or memory resting CD45RO cells.

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The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the concentration of interleukin-2 is from 100 to 400 U/ml, the concentration of interleukin-6 is from 400 to 600 U/ml and the concentration of tumour necrosis factor α is from 15 to 35 ng/ml.

- The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the concentration of interleukin-2 is from 200 to 300 U/ml, the concentration of interleukin-6 is about 500 U/ml and the concentration of tumour necrosis factor α is about 25 ng/ml.
 - 35 7. The method of any one of the pr ceding claims, wherein T cells are activated in vitro.
 - 8. A method for obtaining increased lymphokine production



from a T cell culture, comprising activating the m cells using the method of claim 7.

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The method of claim 9, wherein the activation of the cells in vivo leads to an enhanced immunology response.

11. A method of therapy comprising activating in a humor or animal subject T cells using the method of claim 900 10.

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